

# western cape scouter



June 2023





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## regional commissioner's reflections

Much is written and said about the first 100 days in office. I am fast realising why so much is said about it as well as the importance of the first 100 days.

It's been a baptism of fire to put it mildly. The Job Description doesn't do the job any justice. I have renewed respect for my predecessor Paddy Milner and would like to thank him for steering this ship for the past 10 years.

The strategic plan to grow Scouting in South Africa is clear. To manage the growth, we must be able to measure it and set growth targets to do this. To get this right, we require one source of the truth – in this case our database Scouts.Digital. It's been a challenge to get everybody on the same page, but we are getting there. Good governance is critical to the success of any organization. We cannot proceed with unwarranted adult leaders – which includes adult leaders without police clearance. Scouts in our care at the top of our list of priorities. Our plan is to be fully compliant by 1 July 2023, failing which corrective measures will have to be initiated.

A great deal of focus has been placed on Safe from Harm. We've come a long way since 1907 and much has changed. The Child Protection Act very clearly stipulates and enforces the changes that ensures the safety of children.



I have challenged all adult leaders in the region to complete the SfH1 and SfH2 online training courses and assessments so that we are all aligned regarding Safe from Harm.

We acknowledge that the ongoing change in our programmes – Cub, Scout, Rovers as well as the introduction of the Meerkat programmes, have placed additional demands on both Adult as well as youth training. This is particularly true for our Scout Training Programme where we run Regional badge courses. I have engaged



with the RTC Scout Programme and we plan to approach 2024 a bit differently, so that we can make courses more accessible. It's important that we don't create hurdles that would slow down the growth of our scouts. Project 1st Class aims to radically increase the number of 1st Class scouts in our Region and the country. We must ensure that our facilities and training provide the right opportunity for our scouts to achieve their 1st Class badge.

We have seen a 22% Year on Year growth. This is phenomenal, with our Scouting in Schools (SiS) programme doubling in numbers over the past year. We have also embarked on a different model and expanded to George, with Scouting being delivered through the NGO Womb to Tomb. This, we hope will allow us to rapidly scale and achieve a very aggressive growth, both Regionally and Nationally.

Our duty is to be useful and to help others. We are experiencing a very wet and cold winter. Many people are less fortunate than we are. Let's get some soup kitchens and blanket drives on the go. If we drive this as District initiatives, we can spread the warmth and love far and wide across the Region. Thanks to those groups who have already responded to this call to action.

I look forward to your support as we work together to offer great programmes to our youth. All work done in the Dens and Packs, ultimately support the drive to achieving the goal of increasing the number of 1st Class scouts as well as Springbok scouts.

Enjoy your midyear school break and the awesome opportunities to go out hiking and camping. A scout obeys orders, so if warnings are issued regarding inclement weather conditions, then let's heed the warnings. The mountains are wet and slippery, so take care when you are out hiking – but do get out there and enjoy yourselves. Till we chat again.

Nimmy Abrahams - Regional Commissioner



## editor's desk

There is so much news in this edition and so many interesting stories about activities that have been happening in the Western Cape Region. Thank-you to all the contributors. The WCS makes great bedtime reading. Perhaps read it cover to cover in one or two nights?

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter



# ship quartermaster course

The Ship Quartermaster badge course got off to a very positive and enthusiastic start on Saturday, 6 May 2023. 11 Scouts eagerly awaited the transfer of knowledge and skill from the instructors and course leader on the following topics of interest:



- Refresh Scouts on the parts of the boat, rudder, oars, rigging and sails.
- Learn the difference between running rig and standing rig and provide examples of each.
- The correct and precise method to rig a Saldanha dinghy for Pulling\* and Sailing.
- Learn about checking the boat and its rigging to determine seaworthiness of a boat.
- Learning how to load a Saldanha onto a road trailer.
- Be able to identify various anchors, their parts and correctly lower/weigh anchor.
- How to store boats and their equipment correctly.
- How to maintain some essential boat parts.
- Be able to identify various blocks, their parts, block & tackle theory and application in boating.
- The correct method to belay halyards, coil ropes and prepare ropes for running out.
- Learning about the triangle of combustion, fire safety and prevention.

The course ended on a high note on Sunday, 7 May 2023 with all Scouts achieving practical and theoretical competence. Participants, please take these principles you learnt back to your home Troops and contribute to greater proficiency in the aspects you were taught.

Thanks to the Sea Scout Base for hosting the course and providing hotel standard meals!

**Fun fact:** The term pulling at sea refers to each person uses a single oar on one side of the boat. The term rowing at sea denotes each rower operating a pair of oars, one on each side of the boat. Hence we refer to pulling in a Saldanha as each crew member occupies one oar!



Craig Burchell-Burger - Regional Coordinator Water Activities and Course Leader







# 1st muizenberg meerkats

We had a fun-filled term!. Here are some highlights of what the Meerkats were up to.

As part of the Community Challenge Badge, the Meerkats decorated a container, planted a flower in it and gave it to someone. They also made a thank you card or picture for someone who doesn't usually get thanked. Decoupage pots containing a succulent were made by some instead of a card or a picture and they made sand art as a thank-you gift.



The neighbourhood lightened up with laughter and giggles when the Meerkats went for a ride as part of their 'My Wheels' Interest Badge. Learning about road safety and safety gear ended off with putting it all into practice.

The Den visited Cecilia Forest for a hike which was a great way to spend a Saturday. The Meerkats loved exploring nature where there is always something new to see.

Meerkats learnt all about South Africa by making SA flag fridge magnet puzzles and playing soccer.

Probably one of the most exciting meetings this term was the Science meeting. Making static electricity with balloons and actually putting it to the test by lighting up a lightbulb with the static produced from rubbing a balloon and making a hovercraft with old CDs and balloons.





Safety is very important and what better way to learn about safety than to do 'dangerous' things safely and under controlled conditions?

Meerkats learnt why we should not play with matches but how to light a match safely at the same time. While on the theme of fire, the Meerkats learned how to evacuate a building safely when there is a fire. In order to set the scene we created smoke (for the entertainment of the Meerkat Instructors and adults alike).

We tried some new games being rope skipping, three-legged races, and stop-drop-and-roll tag.

Marihett Bredenkamp - 1st Muizenberg Den Scouter





# springbok camp log

## Saturday 18th March

I woke up at exactly 4:30am, the one time I can recall getting up as straight as my alarm rings. I made my coffee, got dressed, finished packing my last few items, triple checked my checklist, ate breakfast and off I went.

I arrived at the hall at 5:27am. I found Skunk and Lemur there already.

Slowly but surely everyone else arrived, PL's checked Scouts' packs, I grabbed the last equipment from the hall and allocated vehicles to each Scout. I had a last prep chat with all our drivers about the route ahead, and off we went. We left the hall at 6:45am.

Kayla, Sam, Roddy and I were all in Panda's car, so there went the music! About an hour later, at 7:50am we arrived at the SuperSpar in George. Scouts bought a few road snacks and Scouters and older Scouts grabbed some coffee. All vehicles also filled up full tanks of fuel. Off we went.



After a long but fun drive full of singalongs, previous camp stories and a few naps, we arrived in Graaff Reinet at 11:55am. We stopped at the Caltex to refuel and stretch those legs, and off we went.

Finally, after a long dust road with potholes and puddles we finally arrived at all the gates before Asante Sana. Roddy and

Rio took their turns to open gates. Eventually welcomed by the gorgeous surrounding mountains we arrived at Asante Sana. Oh the déjà vu some of us experienced from when we did our 7-day hike in those mountains in 2021.

At last we arrived at the bunk house at 13:14. Everyone unpacked the vehicles and I met with Kitty, Richard and Kyla and introduced them to our Scouters they hadn't met yet. Kitty then gave me news that their power has been off recently, so there goes our fridge and reception, luckily though, Kitty being so kind offered us her fridge and Wi-Fi for me to send updates on the parents group as their house runs on solar.

Once they left, we had our opening ceremony. I was the TS so I had to do the whole "Troop, Troop Alert" thing, it was actually quite fun. We also invested Lemur and Trinity, what an amazing place to get invested at!



Our ceremony ended and then I instructed the PL's to get the Scouts sorted with sleeping arrangements then Kitty came to pick me up in her bakkie to go on a little tour. We went passed the dam we were allowed to swim in, so she showed me a path we could walk. She also took me around to meet some of the farm staff. Then



we took a turn at her house so I could send an update message on our scout parents group. Kitty also provided me with a radio for emergencies and to update her at 07:00 and 19:00 every day.

She dropped me back to the bunk house, everyone was nicely settled in, Trinity complained to Kayla who reported to me about a stomach ache and a headache at around 14:10. Kayla got her sorted and we were just chilling and Tyrin brought his guitar so we had lots of fun playing and singing. Then we all decided to go for a swim at 15:30. We walked a nice little 10 minute walk and we came to the dam.



Everyone had such a great time, especially when the guys made a rescue mission for this one duck named Jeffery who was trapped. Long story short! We all walked back when we got tired.

Once we got back, Badger explained to me that he had set up a wide game with coordinates for patrols. I then grabbed compasses, maps and the first clues and set the patrols off. Trinity was still feeling sick and Samantha also was not feeling the best as she had a bit of a flu when she came so they stayed back with me. Trinity went to go sleep and Sam and I attempted to make a fire, it was perfect while it lasted. Eventually the Swifts Patrol won the wide game and Kayla came to check on Trinity, luckily just in time as she got there Trinity woke up to go throw up twice.



## Sunday 19th March

The morning came and we woke up at around 06:30. We found that Trinity was feeling so much better, Thank goodness! Everyone got dressed, we ate breakfast (I ate Futurelife with Albatross), hiking backpacks were sorted and we cleaned up the bunk house. I was just about to start the bases at 09:00, we were on schedule. Kitty, Richard and Kyla arrived with the Game drive vehicles and they said I had to change my plans. They could only do one, max two trips. So Everyone has got to get on the vehicles as soon as possible. Another thing was the Buffalo was seen close to my original campsite, so I will now have to change the campsite location and the hike route for the next day. So I discussed it all with Kitty and Richard and I managed to get an overnight location and route. By 10:00 we had our kits loaded on a vehicle, and everyone on a vehicle ready for those game drives.



The drive was so much fun. All the animals, views and us older kids holding on the back of the Land Rover flying over the bumps and little hills. It was also so nice driving past our old campsites

and hiking trails from 2021, even though it is very overgrown now as they have had good rain recently.

After a while our group arrived at our campsite on the side of the mountain first. The others offloaded our kit from the vehicle and I left with Richard to fetch the others cause Kitty and Kyla did not want to drive up the steep mountain. By the time we had everyone at the campsite it was 12:40. We were all nice and hungry for lunch, and what a view we had!

Albatross patrol and I ate ham, mayo and lettuce sandwiches because Tyrin forgot the cheese at the bunk house.

After everyone was done and full, I started the bases out at 13:45. There were four bases and four patrols each 45 minutes long so it was supposed to work perfectly, but it didn't! Badger will forever mock me for being able to run a whole camp but not 4 simple bases. But there was a mix up when Kingfishers patrol took longer on Hawk's base, and Eagles patrol were taking their sweet time in between each base and not wanting to continue. But anyways, all the Scouts have managed to do all the badge requirements in those bases. So the bases ended at 16:30.



We then just chilled and set up camp. All us Scouts except Roddy never set up bivvies as we wanted to sleep under the karoo stars. Roddy built his bivvy and Olwam set up his little tent. Everyone cooked dinner and ate while watching the

insane sunset. I think majority of Lemur's camera is filled with sunset pictures and everyone posing in the sunset☐

I then allocated Nash to be head navigator and Gabriel to be assistant navigator for the hike the next day. So we had a little mapping meeting after dinner.

Most of us had a nice early night under the beautiful stars, I went to bed at 20:30, must be a Scout camp record for me! Then it was terrifying when I woke up at 21:27 in a crazy wind storm, I thought I was dreaming for a while. I sat up and put my torch on the check on everyone as my mat was flying over me. Roddy saw my light and got out his bivvy, we then decided to check on the little kids and Kayla woke up too. A lot of the kids were scared, we decided to go to the Scouters. We then decided with them to move everyone closer to

where the Scouters were sleeping as there was less wind where they were cause they were guarded. Kayla, Roddy and I got all the Scouts to get their kits and move down the slope to the Scouters. Everyone packed together like sardines. In the middle of that we had a few rain drops so we got everyone in survival bags too to stay dry. So I was running around finding survival bags and using bivvies as alternatives. Fun fact, we measured the wind to be 40 knots, gusting higher, and that would put it to 80 - 100km/h of wind with no exaggeration

So long story short, once I got in my sleeping bag (when everyone was okay and settled in) it was 22:34, so I say we did quite and efficient job in a great time. I hardly slept a wink but we survived!





## Tuesday 21st March

Then next morning, unfortunately the last, we woke up at 06:45. Everyone packed up, cleaned up and ate breakfast. We had closing ceremony at 08:45 and we had a few prizes for younger kids as they were superstars through the tough times. I said a last few words and we hopped in to our Scouters vehicles. We drove out of there at 09:22. In Panda's car we had a little special moment where we realised that this was the last time all us OG older scouts would be in Panda's car as this was Roddy's last camp and Sam might be leaving too. Oh, and best of all, Panda told us she has decided to stay! We started driving out in a convoy, until suddenly us in Panda's car realised Lemur who was behind us, was not anymore. Hawk was in front of us and we both decided to stop and wait for them just after the last gate with a code. After awhile we got a call from Lemur saying she got a flat tire. Luckily Skunk was behind them, and he helped to change the tyre. Finally, we were all together again, and off we go. We then reached Graaff-Reinet at 10:30 to refuel and stretch our legs. We left and then drove to our lunch spot, a beautiful picnic spot just under the Beer Vlei Dam.

On the way there I accidentally navigated us past the spot, but we were just past it when we realized and then turned around. We arrived there at 12:55, everyone had lunch and I chatted to the Scouters about a new ETA time as we left late from Asante Sana and



Lemur's tire took some time (we would not have made 15:00 as we initially told the parents). Then we walked up to the dam wall. It was a pretty view and it was pretty cool to walk on the top of the wall. Nathan was enjoying taking his pictures, and Roddy recorded a weird video of him running on the top. We finally left there at 13:20 and I put our new ETA time of 16:00 on the parents group. After a long drive, where our car was basically silent with us sleeping most of the time we made it to George at 15:24. Panda took us to McDonald's for our traditional Mc Flurries! We were so happy. Finally we got back to Knysna, Badger and Skunk being ahead made it back at for 16:00, the cars at the back came in a bit after and we came in at 16:20 as our Mc Flurries were important.

Everyone got their kits and left. It was nice seeing all the Scouts back to parents. Everyone was happy and we got a lot of great positive feedback from the parents and Scouts. I said my thank yous and goodbyes and I left. I got home, put my dirty clothes in the wash, had a shower and just crashed on the couch. It was nice to be home!

Chiara Medeira - 1st Knysna Scout

(Ed. This article was shortened)



# sea scout regatta

The Sea Scout Regatta was held in May with under very pleasant conditions with a fair wind blowing which was fair to learner sailors as well as experienced ones. There was a great turn out of 12 boats. It was good to see the Guides and Ranger Guides out on the water in No 4.

The Regatta was dominated by three Troops. Results were as follows:

**Junior Pulling:** First: 1st Bergvliet, Second: 2nd Plumstead, Third: 2nd Bergvliet

**Senior Pulling:** First: 1st Bergvliet, Second: 2nd Bergvliet, Third: 2nd Plumstead

**Junior Sailing:** First: 2nd Plumstead, Second: 2nd Bergvliet, Third: 1st Bergvliet

**Senior Sailing:** First: 2nd Plumstead, Second: 2nd Bergvliet, Third: 2nd Plumstead

The Binnacle is awarded to the overall winners and the results were:

**First:** 2nd Plumstead, **Second:** 2nd Bergvliet, **Third:** 1st Bergvliet

Congratulations to 2nd Plumstead.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter





# 1st plettenberg bay aims high

The Plettenberg Bay Sea Scouts Troop was inaugurated in 2016. In March of that year the first Scouts and Cubs were invested. The Scouting cycle has recently been completed as some of these first Scouts have been invested as Assistant Troop Scouters this year (2023)! Our first overnight camp was held at Ingwe Forest Lodge from 15-17 July 2016 and our first hike at Robberg Nature Reserve the following month on 27 August. Our first community event was participating in a beach cleanup day on 17 September 2016 as part of International Coastal Cleanup Day, and our first national scouting event was joining 1st Knysna for Jota/Joti 22 October same year. Our cubs kicked off early too, participating in a district Gold Wolf Camp 2-4 December 2016.



Our name is officially 1st Plettenberg Bay Sea Scouts but perhaps it should have been the Plett Nomads. Other Troops may have a traditional Scout Hall steeped in history and full of memorabilia, but not Plett Sea Scouts - we are true campers. We are permanently travelling. Our base is not a traditional Scout hall but rather a collection of homes and various venues where our equipment and scouting items are stored and we do various Scouting activities. We are always striving to be prepared. Any time anything is needed, we must collect and load it up at whichever house it is stored. If it weren't for the understanding and generosity of our Scout parents and leaders, our troop would not be able to do any of the activities. Many thanks to all the parents for the storage of boats, boxes, equipment, badges etc. We are blessed with a great team of adult leaders, and currently have a Scout Group Leader, Assistant Scout Group Leader, Troop Scouter, and an array of Assistant Troop Scouters, along with a committed Akela and parent helper to run our cub pack.





We are Sea Scouts and most of our activities are centred around the ocean and coastal regions. We try to be a friend to all and every other Scout and always take part in our District events and have even joined some Regional events (Eastern Cape) in the past. Over our first 7 years we have managed to produce our first Springbok scout, our first few Leaping Wolf cubs, see many scouts and cubs excel at advancements and gain loads of interest badges, and participate in an amazing array of outings and activities. Our annual troop sailing camp has become a



highlight, and cubs join the scouts for one of the days, preparing them to join us when they get older.

2023 has been a productive and busy year for the troop so far! Striving for excellence, we were very pleased to kick off the year with news of a Gold Star award for 2022, and gold (Penguins) and silver (Seals, Albatross and Seagull) patrol awards! We also celebrated 9 scouts being awarded Traveller, 4 Discoverer

and one 1st Class in 2022! In February, Plett participated in the District Sailing Camp where we joined the Mossel Bay, Knysna, Sedgefield and George troops. A marvellous time was had by all the Scouts as they sailed boats around Island Lake near Wilderness. The Scouts certainly learnt to obey orders at this event. Without the advice and orders of the sailing instructors, many of them would have turned turtle i.e. capsized.

April was certainly Plett's busiest month. In this month we held a successful troop Survival camp where each scout was tested in their ability to smile and whistle under all difficulties. Some of our scouts also participated in the Outeniqua District Kontiki held in Knysna. This is where many of our newer Scouts had their first attempt at building rafts together and were also tested on their ability to remain courteous!





We also hosted the Lawnwood Snake Sanctuary who gave the Scouts and Cubs a presentation on these misunderstood creatures. The presentation helped the troop members to learn to be a friend to animals. At the end of April, some of the Scouts participated in the City Nature Challenge. Here Scouts photographed the plants and animals along Lookout Beach and the Lagoon. These observations were uploaded to the iNaturalist app. Some scouts competed their observations at other local venues. This task was one of the tasks for the Conservation Scoutcraft badge. The most interesting find was a pair of sea hares in the shallow waters of the lagoon.



The highlight of the year was the PAWS Amazing Race held in Plettenberg Bay on the 1st May. The Scout Law "A scout's duty is to be useful and help others"" was applied on this day where Scouts and Cubs formed teams to compete in the Amazing race challenges. The entry fees helped to raise funds for the Plett Animal Welfare Service (PAWS) and indirectly created awareness of the Scouting Movement. Scouts were also useful in picking up the litter along our Main Street for the Litter Less Campaign. Members of our Seal patrol tested their loyalty in May when they hiked the Perdekop Trail near Kranshoek. This was to aid their assistant patrol leader to obtain her Discoverer Advancement.

We held a Public awareness and recruitment campaign beginning of June. The public has started to recognize the Scout uniforms in Plett, some members of the public gave us generous donations for our future project, where we aim to have our boats and canoes repaired. (A scout's honour is to be trusted.)



Also in June, the Scouts assisted Nature's Valley Trust in the World Ocean's Day Beach Clean-up at Lookout Beach, with our Scouts picked up many bags of litter. Plett Sea Scouts have decided to assist the Mandela Day Bread Tags and Tops Challenge to be held in July. This is our attempt at being thrifty. This, combined with other recent and planned activities, are assisting us as a troop to work towards the Champions for Nature Challenge, our first attempt to participate in one of the national and international scouting challenges run annually.





Our group has grown this year with lots of cub and scout investitures. Perhaps it is because of the Scout Law – “Be clean in thought, word and deed” that has attracted so many new recruits. As we grow from strength to strength, we enjoy reflecting on our early beginnings,

and look forward to the next exciting season in our scouting journey!

Bronwen Pfister (Pangolin) - ATS 1st Plettenberg Bay and

Mark Brown (Keego) - ASGL 1st Plettenberg Bay





# city nature challenge



The City Nature Challenge is a global bioblitz-style competition where cities across the world take part for a weekend each year in a friendly contest to see who can make the most observations of nature using

the iNaturalist App.

Scouts in Cape Town once again played their part in helping keep Cape Town in the top rankings – with Cape Town coming second this year. Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts, Rovers and adult leaders were all involved and 638 badges were earned by anyone who uploaded 10 or more observations. Scouts made up about half of the people in Cape Town who took part and contributed 13940 observations (about a quarter of all observations).

A few weeks later the City of Cape Town invited some of the key scout contributors to a celebration dinner in front of the Save our Seas Shark Exhibit at the Two Oceans Aquarium. Scouts from 2nd Hout Bay, 1st Pinelands, 2nd Plumstead, 1st Muizenberg and 1st Durbanville attended and the message for next year is already loud and clear – Cape Town is planning to go big in 2024 and to win the competition once again!



Jonathan Webb - Assistant Troop Scouter 1st Claremont

(Ed. Jonathan was give the opportunity to say a few words to the audience about the Western Cape Region's participation. Great exposure for Scouts SA!



# 1st durbanville world jamboree

Four Scouts and one Scouter from 1st Durbanville are participating in the 25th World Scout Jamboree which is being held in South Korea in July/August this year.

Daniel Wilbraham (16), Hannah Murphy (16), Keagan Coetzee (17), Oscar Berteler (17) and Sean Wilbraham (Assistant Troop Scouter) are part the South African contingent which will depart for South Korea on 23 July to participate in the shakedown camp at the KSA Scout Centre in Seoul

A tour of South Korea before proceeding to the Jamboree takes place from 1 to 12 August.

For 11 days, Scouts aged between the ages of 14 and 18 years will live in tented camps at the newly built campground in Saemangeum, Jeollabuk-do which encompasses 8.8 square kilometres of reclaimed land.



This site will become a lively space where Scouts from across the globe can participate in a broad array of individual and team activities designed to inspire participants.

This year's theme is "Draw Your Dream" and participants will be able to embark on new adventures, learn about different cultures, and form new friendships.

Sustainability is an important pillar of the event. The Sustainability sector is dedicated to teaching teen participants to advocate for sustainable development practices for their local and global communities. In the Better World Tent and Global Development Village, they will commune with nature and forge a culture of peace and discussion.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



From left to right: Keagan Coetzee, Sean Wilbraham, Hannah Murphy, Oscar Berteler and Daniel Wilbraham



# Ldc1 and Ldc2



Developing leadership skills from a young age is just one of the things that sets Scouts apart from other youth organisations. LDC 1 and 2 are the first two rungs of a scout's leadership journey, followed later in their career by PLTC and PLTU. This year, the region ran LDC 1 and 2 at Gilpine and about 60 scouts came on each course.



Through a variety of patrol challenges and fun activities, scouts were able to experience and learn about leadership, the role of a Patrol Leader, Patrols in Council, Courts of Honour, patrol member roles, Safe from Harm and how to be a first class First Class Scout.



The programmes each weekend were action-packed, with icebreakers, steam releases, teamwork challenges, competitions, pioneering, group sessions and practical activity planning.

This year, a team of 2023 PLTU scouts were the PQ's for each of the patrols and helped to run activities, teach skills, model leadership and add to the overall vibe, thereby bringing home what they have learnt and showing how the leadership journey in scouting comes full circle. Big thumbs up to Melissa Rijs for pulling together

both courses, creating a bunch of new material and for coordinating the team of helpers with energy and enthusiasm and ensuring all the scouts earned their badges.

Jonathan Webb - Course Staff Member and Assistant Troop Scouter 1st Claremont









# rotary scout adventures

The annual Mykonos regatta sponsored by Club Mykonos is one of the popular events on the Royal Cape Yacht Club calendar, and attracts a large number of entries.

The 2023 event was no different – 65 entrants for the 75 mile downwind dash to Club Mykonos Langebaan. On Friday morning, 16 Feb, we made a good start, and soon had our purple spinnaker flying – all the way to Langebaan. With a mild South Easter of 15-20 knots, the entire fleet made good timing and all were tied by up nightfall. Rotary Scout completed the race in 10 hours – the fastest time that we know of for Rotary Scout.

The Saturday racing was a pursuit race around Langebaan lagoon. As one of the slower yachts, we started early, and were soon overtaken by all the fast yachts, but we sailed on to complete the course. Prize giving that evening was a great celebration for the serious racing community.

With little wind expected on Sunday, we slipped moorings at 3 am to motor home. It was a long day out on the water, but we enjoyed a glorious sunrise and beautiful sunset.

The crew comprised 3 scouters, 2 scouts, and 2 sailors – the adventure continues....

Brian Goemans - Rotary Scout Yacht Management Team





# sgl warrant course

The Scout Group Leader warrant course was recently completed at Gilpine. 12 SGLs completed the course and they are now eligible to apply for the SGL warrant. There was a very good mix of people across many Groups in the Western Cape which was wonderful to see.



The course had great participation and sometimes lead to discussions going on longer than the required scheduled time. It is better this way than the other where the audience has no comment. Many thanks to the session leaders Nimmy Abrahams, Fr Charles Prince, Craig Burchell-Burger and Paul Innes.

Nigel Forshaw - SGL Warrant Course Leader

## 1st durbanville meerkats

The 1st Durbanville Meerkat Den recently reached out to Bless-A Baby when they donated items and helped to pack special necessity bags for mothers in need.

On 5 May, the 1st Durbanville Meerkats handed over their much needed donations to Bless-A-Baby. Thereafter, the Meerkats helped unload a van containing other donations and helped to sort them before packing the "mother care" bags under guidance of Michelle Joubert and Glyn Rosselli from Bless-A-Baby and Mandy Burger, Den Scouter for the 1st Durbanville Meerkats.



Bless-A-Baby helps mothers in need with basic post-partum necessities which are distributed to eleven local public hospitals and maternity wards. Members of the public are always welcome to contribute to this much needed programme.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



# senior cub camp



The Senior Cub Camp is one of only a handful of Regional events for Cubs, also including Cub Fun Day, Kon-Tiki and Edward Shield. It was started by Simon Grantham and Valeska Gruenbaum as a Helderberg District event for Cubs working on their Link Badge, and since 2016 it has been run as a Regional event at Hawequas. The theme since then has been based on the "Survivor" TV series, and

the event has grown to 72 Cubs, 10 Scouts and over 20 adult leaders. This year was the first full-size event since the end of Covid restrictions, and it was also the second year that Fraser Hewson, Ian Webb have run the event, with Orsella Schneeberger running the catering.

It is open to ten year old Cubs and the purpose is to prepare them for Scouts by focusing on outdoor skills, the patrol system, and the Scout Laws, plus the opportunity to get to know senior Cubs from other packs in the region. Each "tribe" of Cubs works as a patrol and is mentored throughout the weekend by a senior Scout, and the Scouts have a key role in getting the Cubs



excited for what is coming when they turn 11 and become Scouts themselves.



The camp had the usual highlights including Survivor-style challenges, with colourful banners and buffs. Each Cub earns the Outdoorsman badge, and this year we also included the Indigenous Games badge, learning board games (Mancala and Moraba-raba) and sports (driestokkies, drieblikkies and jukskei). And of course no Survivor camp is complete without some weird and wonderful "food challenges"!



The camp in mid April was quite late in the season compared to previous years, but we were lucky to have fantastic weather, which made it possible to run the full programme including outdoor races, swimming, outdoor cooking on fires, night hike and more without any adjustments. The following weekend was the first big storm of autumn and would have played havoc with the programme, the camping and the Hawequas roads.



The Cubs learnt a lot, had a lot of fun, and went home tired but hopefully excited by what is ahead of them as Scouts.

Ian Webb - Camp organiser and Scout Group Leader 1st Claremont





# western cape awards

The annual Western Cape Regional award ceremony took place on the 24th May 2023 at the 1st Bergvliet Scout Hall. The attendance was good with some recipients making the long trip in the evening all the way from Hermanus. We were fortunate to have the surprise attendance from our Chief Commissioner Gary Pienaar at the ceremony.

Our new Regional Commissioner Nimmy Abrahams opened the proceeding after a brief flag ceremony and opening prayer. This was followed by a message from the Chief Commissioner, Gary Pienaar, after which Nimmy Abrahams was presented with his Regional Commissioner warrant. In the presence of us all, Nimmy then re-affirmed his Scout Promise with Gary.

Master of ceremonies, David Knight, then took over and announced the awards, where each recipient received their award and had a photo snapped in front of the flags.

The awards categories and their 2023 recipients are as below

## 5 YEAR AWARD



Christopher Benford	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Rosebank
James Rogers	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Bergvliet
Alexandra Lancaster	Assistant Troop Scouter/Rover	6th Rondebosch
Andrew Klazinga	Troop Scouter	1st Meadowridge
Lawrence Stanton	Assistant Troop Scouter	6th Rondebosch
Melissa Rijs	Troop Scouter	3rd Pinelands
Angela Lee-Wright	Scout Group Leader	1st Muizenberg
Marista van Zyl	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Blaauwberg
Monet van Antwerpen	Assistant Troop Scouter	2nd Somerset West
Catherine Williams	Assistant Troop Scouter	2nd Hout Bay
Sylvia Ongansie	Assistant Pack Scouter	1st Belhar
Jennifer Benjamin	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Belhar
Adrian Oosthuizen	Troop Scouter	1st Plettenberg Bay
Bronwyn Coetzee	Assistant Pack Scouter	1st Durbanville
Bronwen Pfister	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Plettenberg Bay
Nicole du Plooy	Scout Group Leader	1st Hermanus
Orsella Schneeberger	Pack Scouter	1st Hermanus
Anthony Dancer	Assistant Pack Scouter	2nd Bergvliet
Richard Steinhofel	Assistant Pack Scouter	2nd Bergvliet
Judy Willemse	Troop Scouter	2nd Bergvliet



Deon van Lierop	Assistant Pack Scouter	2nd Bergvliet
Brian Goemans	Scout Group Leader	2nd Bergvliet
Naadirah Ismail	Pack Scouter	1st Belvedere
Johann Visser	Troop Scouter	1st Durbanville
Raymond Middleton	Scout Group Leader	1st Durbanville
Sean Wilbraham	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Durbanville
Johnathan Potgieter	Assistant Troop Scouter	2nd Kenridge

### 10 YEAR AWARD



Adeeb Abrahams	Troop Scouter	1st Belvedere
Graham Bakker	Pack Scouter	1st Knysna
Charlene Moore	Assistant Pack Scouter	1st Plumstead
Kevin Scanes	Troop Scouter	1st Plettenberg Bay
Simon Grantham	Troop Scouter	1st Somerset West
Kerry Jo Purnell	Assistant Pack Scouter	2nd Somerset West
Christopher Benford	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Rosebank
Conrad Thomas	District Commissioner	Two Oceans District
Ebrahim Abrahams	District Commissioner	Constantiaberg District
Natasha Kayle	PR Manager	National

### 15 YEAR AWARD



Ubayd Bapoo	SGL / RTC Rovers WC	1st Belvedere
Quintin Combrink	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Monte Vista
Devon Bowen	District Commissioner	Table Bay District



### LONG SERVICE 20 YEAR AWARD

Mary Thomas	Pack Scouter	1st Plumstead
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### LONG SERVICE 50 YEAR AWARD

Paddy Milner	Regional Commissioner WC Region	
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## REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION



Charles Rouse	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Muizenberg
Connor Winter	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Muizenberg
Craig Burchell-Burger	RC Water Activities	Western Cape Region
Lucy du Toit	Assistant Den Scouter	1st Claremont
Marihett Bredenkamp	Den Scouter	1st Muizenberg

## CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMENDATION



Eleanor Brown	WC Regional Manager	WC Region
Paul Innes	RTC – Adult Support	WC Region

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT



Ahmad Solomon	Project Manager	Scouting in Schools
Angela Lee-Wright	Scout Group Leader	1st Muizenberg
David Bosch	Troop Scouter	1st Muizenberg
Emily Gammon	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Claremont
Grant Chapman	Rotary Scout / Skipper	WC Region
Jared Harding	Scout Group Leader	1st Plettenberg Bay
Natasha Kayle	PR Manager	National
Richard Steinhofel	Assistant Pack Scouter	2nd Bergvliet
Wayne Pellew	Assistant Troop Scouter	1st Muizenberg

## MEDAL OF MERIT



Paul Innes	RTC – Adult Support	WC Region
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## BP ROVER AWARD



Alexandra Lancaster	ATS and Rover	6th Rondebosch
Johann Harzon	Rover	6th Rondebosch



## GALLANTRY AWARD

Denton Smith SGL 1st Meadowridge

The Award ceremony concluded with a prayer and tea, where the recipients exchanged many congratulations amongst their peers. While the awards ceremony is the annual event where the selfless contributions made by our volunteer adult scouters is recognized, it is a mere drop in the ocean in terms of the total contribution made to the Western Cape scouting by the many unsung heroes operating in our groups in either a uniformed or lay role. So while they may not be due for an award currently, a hearty "Thank you" from ones next in line scouter from time to time will go a long way towards the strengthening of that scouting bond. Scouting colleagues please get those award nominations submitted timeously as this is an important step in ensuring recognition is awarded when due. The service and merit awards policy and forms are on the National website. Please also ensure that your Scouts Digital personal profiles are up to date and accurate as possible in terms of a start date and investiture date, and supported by a completed and approved AAM form, to ensure a smooth award process.



Conrad Thomas - Regional Awards Committee and DC Two Oceans

# pltu

The 30th Gilqua Patrol Leader's Training Unit (PLTU) course took place from 1-9 April 2023 and saw 40 of the top scouts in the Region in attendance. Led by Michael Ketterer as the Course Leader and Byron Kingwill as the Troop Leader, 41 staff members dedicated their time and energy to making this incredible course a reality.

With the patrol system as its core focus, PLTU aims to grow each scout by developing their physical and mental capabilities over a rigorous 9 days. These individuals were selected from 22 troops across the region to allow the knowledge and training to be taken back to their home troops and fellow scouts. Participants of the 30th Gilqua PLTU described the course as "a fantastic course to train the next generation of leaders, not just in scouting but in the outside world too," and that "PLTU showed me my limits are higher than I thought." For many, PLTU is just the start of their journey in leadership, and we hope to see them back year after year in staff positions, and one day even leading PLTU to develop the next generation of youth leaders.

Monét van Antwerpen - RTC Scout Programme





# water awareness course



On the cold and rainy Saturday morning of 17 June, 16 participants arrived at the Sea Scout Base in Lakeside in order to learn more about activities associated with the water awareness certificate. The course struck the perfect balance between Scout and adult participants as discussions about the different perspectives encouraged some good debate and clarification of some of the misconceptions circulating in the movement.

The water awareness certificate course deals with the following essential modules, among others: responsibilities of the water awareness certificate holder, the applicable organizational rules and safe scouting policy, swimming safety, swimming rescue procedures, first aid, a CPR demonstration and safety/protective equipment.

After lovely tea time refreshments prepared by the Sea Scout Base and some practical exercises, the course culminated in the handing over of certificates and a closing flag parade. Well done to the participants that undertook the training and we look forward to seeing some more water activity permit applications soon!

The water awareness course is a critical certificate for those groups partaking in swimming activities and it is a pre-requisite in order to attend the Water Activity Licence (WAL) course in January of every year. The water awareness course is presented three times a year and is open to Scouts from age 14½, Rovers and Scouters alike.

Many thanks to the Sea Scout Base for hosting the course and providing the catering, Bevan Collins as a session presenter and Aaron Filmler for jumping in and running the CPR demonstration.

Craig Burchell-Burger - Regional Coordinator Water Activities





# sis hiking programme

Earlier this year, we requested volunteers to assist with our hiking programme, and we would like to extend our gratitude to the Appleton Warden Team for their help. We have successfully completed two out of the three planned hikes so far, although one hike had to be postponed due to rain.

We have a total of 40 schools in the



Cape Metro area, and for many of our scouts, it was their first experience hiking on a mountain. The joy and excitement was evident as we explored Signal Hill and Lions Head on Youth Day. The smiles on their faces truly brightened the day.

We acknowledge the Lombardi Trust for making this opportunity possible.

Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader





# 1st gordons bay cub news

1st Gordons Bay Cubs was scheduled to have an early autumn Cub camp at Hawequas in Wellington from the 24-26th March. This would have been our second time at Hawequas and there was a lot of eager anticipation. Unfortunately the weekend rained out - an unprecedented amount of rain came down upon the Wellington (and Hawequas) and both Kuba and Haggis advised us to postpone, due to safety concerns. Although disappointed, we were happy to see the Safe Scouting Policy being applied.



We tried to book another weekend at Hawequas, but unfortunately Hawequas was fully booked for pretty much the rest of the year. We had to scramble to find another appropriate venue, and eventually settled on the Disakloof campsite in Betty's Bay. It had, as far as we understand, been used by 1st Hermanus once before, so the venue wasn't foreign to SSA. Due to the inclement weather we decided to make use of the their chalets, which was a very wise choice in the end. Disakloof blessed us by providing their bigger hall at

no extra cost, which meant that we could play and learn without having to worry about the stormy weather.

The weekend was all about having fun and being close to nature. We organised a guided tour through the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, which is right next door to Disakloof. The Cubs learned about Fynbos and how important the local ecosystem is. We got really close to nature when some baboons decided to grace us with their presence. It was a great opportunity to learn about these animals and how to stay safe when hiking in the mountains.

The Cubs had fun creating hand puppets, and putting on puppet shows, and we ate like kings. We had quite a few parent helpers on the camp, which we were really grateful for.

We ended our camp on the Sunday with a Cubs own where we reflected on the value of being grateful. The message was that when we focus on the things that we are grateful for, it helps us cope during tough times.





**Special visitor:** Earlier in the term we had a visit from Johan Badenhorst, the host of the Voetspore television programme on SABC 2 . Johan was in between his tours to South America, and we roped him in to spend a Friday evening with us, to help us learn about the importance of shelters when you are out in the open. Johan shared a few stories from his travels and then jumped in to assist the Cubs in setting up lean to shelters. It was a fun evening indeed.

On Voetspore's Facebook page Johan posted the following: "Wonderful visit to the 1st Gordons Bay Cub scouts. Thanks Matt and Beyers for setting it up. Taught them something about shelters... they taught me something about enthusiasm!"

Beyers van der Merwe - Pack Scouter 1st Gordons Bay





# youth day sis activity



Scouts in our Scouting in Schools Programme reflected on youth day with games, discussions and soup kitchens.

Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader



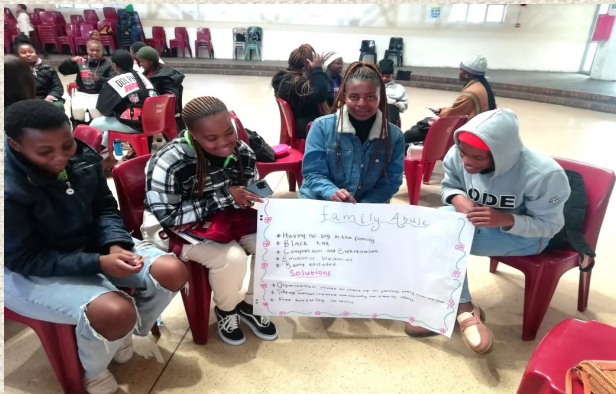


# scout yeboneers dialogues

As part of Youth Month 2023, the Western Cape Government organised a series of dialogues called the "#ThethaYouth #PraatNou Campaign 2023" (Thetha means "talk" in isiXhosa). The purpose of this campaign is to engage with the youth of the Western Cape, understand their challenges, and "co-create" solutions with them. These dialogues help to identify emerging research areas related to youth development.

Overall, the Western Cape Government aims to involve young people in shaping their own future by addressing their challenges and ensuring their voices are heard in the policies and programmes implemented to support them. Our Scouting in Schools Yeboneers engaged in these dialogues at their Friday meetings.

Ahmad Solomon - Scouting in Schools Project Leader





# 1st belhar news

**District Campfire 2023:** On Friday 10th March our District held a successful and fun campfire event at our District hall located in Parow. The campfire was led by our ex DC Leander Thielman and DC Seamus Marankey.



A large group of cubs, scouts, scouters, district members, parents and friends gathered to enjoy this occasion which lit up our scouting spirit once more. Our cubs really enjoyed the skits, songs and roasting marshmallows over the coals after the event. We definitely look forward to our next campfire

which is planned for the third school term.

**Litter less Campaign 2023:** On Saturday 25th March our Pack members and parents met on a cold rainy day to clean our local park in Belhar and an adjacent vacant field which is located next to our Pack meeting place. Warmly dressed and kitted with garbage bags and tongs our cubs enthusiastically filled many bags with items such as plastic straws, bottles, cigarette butts, sweet and chip packets and it was very satisfying to witness how much cleaner the environment was once the task was completed. Thereafter we visited



our local shopping mall and handed out pamphlets to requesting people not to litter and held a display of placards informing our local community that littering is not cool, and that garbage belongs in the rubbish bin.

**Cub Fun Day 2023:** On Saturday 20th May, our cubs and parents joined in the Cub Fun Day which was held at the Monte Vista Scout hall and experienced a sensational day alongside other cubs from the region. Our base activity was touch and much fun was had at our base as the cubs had to guess "what's in the sock?" The other bases were so much fun too as our cubs could not stop chatting about all the activities that they had participated in. We do look forward to the next fun day.





**1st Belhar Group Community Involvement in University of the Western Cape Road race 2023:** On Saturday 3rd June, our Scout Group assisted the local university with their annual road race. The route commences at UWC campus then passes through the Belhar community and back to the university. 1st Belhar Scout Group members assisted with the water refreshment table. We arrived at 6am and it was bitterly cold and pouring with rain. The race commenced at 7:30 am just as the rain subsided and we greeted many runners as they passed by to quench their thirst. Notwithstanding the inclement weather we successfully completed our task and gathered the water sachets dropped by the runners to ensure no littering of our community.

Lillian Layman - Assistant Pack Scouter  
1st Belhar

**Inter Patrol Pancake Event: This was held on Tuesday 16th May 2023:** The pancake evening was an amazing experience that brought us all together. Everyone had a great time and the room was filled with laughter and joy. We enjoyed the opportunity to make our own pancakes and experiment with different toppings and flavours. It was a great chance for us to learn how to work as a team and collaborate with each other. Despite differing personalities and approaches, we were able to come together and create something amazing. Whether playful or serious, we all had a great time and enjoyed the satisfaction of making something delicious.

Aidan Nissen - Scout 1st Belhar Troop





# 1st Kirstenhof on the move

Inspired action really does pay off in Scouting, the well-being and personal development of our Cubs and Scouts being the driving force for our adult leadership in the Group. It's no secret that in today's modern world, many children are struggling with mental health issues such as stress, anxiety, depression, motivation and low self-esteem. We believe Scouting can help our children cope with these stressors and overcome their personal struggles, by creating a Fun, Safe and Engaging experience for everyone; even for the adult leaders - and that's exactly what we've gone and done.



From humble beginnings back in October 2021....Really humble; the founding adult members had No Scouting experience, just big hearts and a strong sense of



community. We launched the Group and opened with the Cub Pack; supported by experienced mentors Richard and Angela from 2nd Bergvliet and 1st Muizenberg respectively, reaching full capacity by the 2nd term of 2022 - 28 invested Cubs and a healthy waiting list!

Fast forward to today and our Cub Pack is thriving, with a buzz of excitement at every weekly meeting. We recently increased our pack capacity to 30 invested Cubs by opening a 5th 'Six', we had been running over subscribed

for the last 3 terms with each 'Six' having an extra 7th Cub to try accommodate the local demand. Now each Six has its correct number of Cubs with the most experienced 'Sixer' Cubs showing good leadership in helping the new and younger Cubs 'learn the ropes'.



The Troop has just completed their 3rd term since we opened the unit in July 2022, with 16 invested Scouts between 2 Patrols. The past term has been a busy one, with all the preparation work at our weekly meetings paying off. The Troop completed their first hike up Table Mountain, camped overnight locally, entered 2 teams into Upton Shield (and got a special mention of helping an injured woman down the mountain) and participated



in the most recent Kon-Tiki AND Regatta at the Sea Scout Base. We also had our first ever 'Going Up' ceremony, where both Pack and Troop units came together for the first time to celebrate the move of a Cub to a Scout; this was a very special event for us as a Group!



This inspiring and

energising environment is also attracting adults into the Group, who want to support the good work being done by our adult leadership and share in that uplifting experience. Scouting with Inspired Action, Selfless Service and a shared vision of the Greater Good for generations to come is our Mission, long may we continue in this way.



Neil Kohler - Scout Group Leader 1st Kirstenhof



# 1st somerset west soup kitchen



On Saturday 17 June, a group of young cubs and scouts from 1st Somerset West decided to do something special for the homeless people in their town. The youth aged between 7 and 17 years old, gathered at their 1st Somerset West Scouts hall and started to prepare a huge pots of soup, using ingredients like carrots, potatoes, onions, beans and spices, next they added beef and chicken to make wholesome hearty soup.

They cooked the soup over gas, stirring it occasionally and adding more water as needed. They managed to make 130 litres of delicious soup in total, enough to fill several large containers. They also received some food donations from generous people who wanted to support their cause. More raw ingredients were donated to be able to make another 50 litres of fresh vegetable soup, adding more variety and nutrition to their menu.

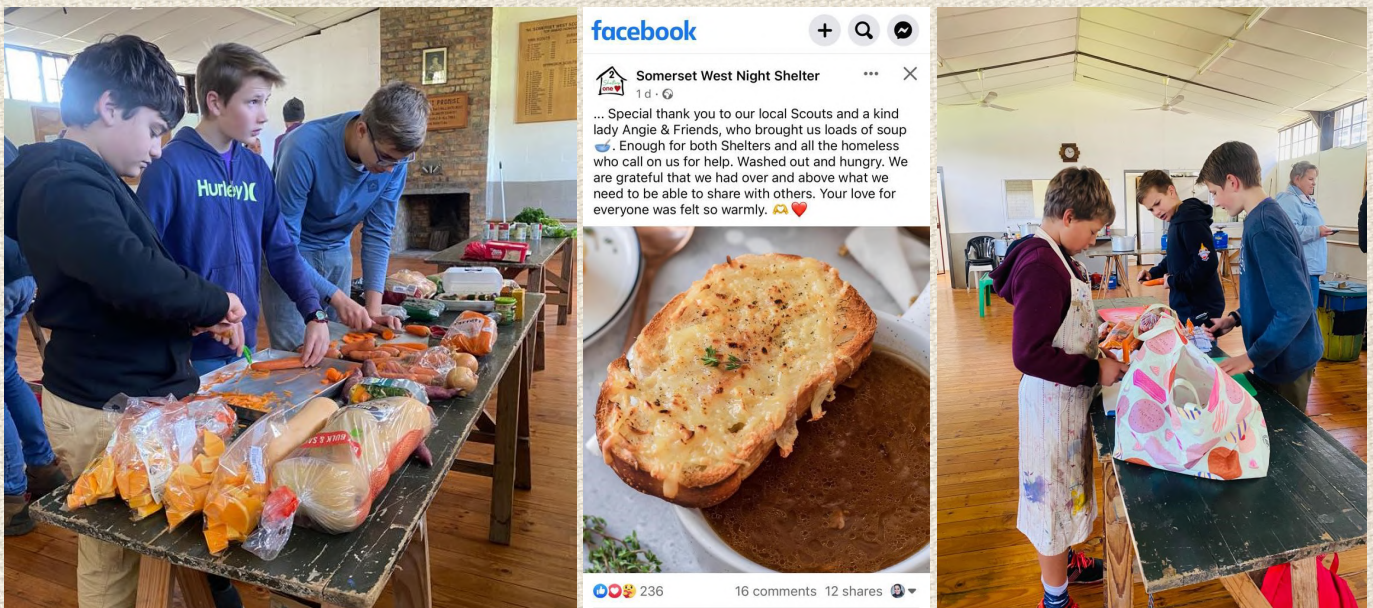




The cubs and scouts spent five hours in the kitchen, working as a team and having fun along the way. They calculated that they had put in 75 hours of effort altogether, which was quite impressive for their age group. They loaded the containers of soup into their cars and drove to two night shelters in Somerset West, one for homeless people who needed a place to sleep at night and one for families who were struggling to make ends meet. The donated soup was able to provide a minimum of 2 meals for all the folk living at the 2 night shelters. They handed out the soup to the people at the shelters, who were very grateful and happy to receive a warm and tasty meal.

The cubs and scouts felt proud of their good deed and learned a lot about compassion and teamwork. They also made some new friends and got to hear some interesting stories from the people they helped. It was a busy and rewarding day for everyone involved.

Simon Grantham - Troop Scouter 1st Somerset West, etc.





# hike leader badge course



Hike Leader 2023 was held over two weekends, 3-4 June and 16-8 June. This year we had 29 adventure enjoying participants on the course.

The course kicked off with a day of theory, including suitability of kit, mapping practical, safety precautions, planning, and the responsibilities of being a hike leader. For some of the participants hiking is a new experience, so the theory day is good groundwork for rest of the course.

Day 2 of the first weekend was a day hike of 15km in the Silvermine reserve area. We met at the corner of Ou Kaapse Weg and Silvermine Road for a 9am start. The participants were allocated into 6 patrols and given maps. I divided the route into 6 sections, and each patrol in succession had to navigate the hike party to their specified location



along the route to strengthen map reading and navigation skills. Winter came early this year and the intermittent rain, and the colder weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of this year's aspiring hike leaders as the weather closed in around mid-day. The plan was to lunch at Noordhoek Peak, but the low cloud and high winds prompted us to move on. The rain caught up with us with roughly 3km still to go with serious down pours and lashing rain sweeping in as the party were

reaching the finish point, the car park outside Silvermine gate 1.

Weekend 2 was an overnight hike to the Scout Mountain Club hut. The limit on numbers in the hut necessitated splitting the course participants into two groups with group 1 spending Friday night, 16 June in the hut and group 2 on Saturday night, 17 June. The logistics for each group with regards to the winter weather systems worked out sufficiently for each group to do the same route in between the cold fronts.





The route was from Cecilia Forest car park up Nursery Ravine, along Smuts track to the Aqueduct. From there onto the Junction pools, up Echo Valley, through Ark Valley and the Valley of the Red Gods and onto the hut. The route down was the Jeep track to the Overseers Hut and then down Cecilia Ridge and back to Cecilia Forest car park.

This route allowed for a full day of hiking for each group and a quick way down for the group change over. Each group had their own mid-winter hiking experience with group 1 hiking in low visibility and strong winds. On the Saturday, both groups had to contend with crossing



flooded rivers, due to the heavy overnight rains, with group 2 taking a more gung-ho approach with several just forging through the rivers as opposed to navigating rock hopping to keep boots dry. Group 2 also navigated up Nursery Ravine with the river and path becoming one near the top.



The fireplace in the hut was put to good use as each participant carried a log or two of wood up. Not only was this a good source of comfort during those cold nights but a great way for drying wet boots and clothes for the next day.

The mountain was wet and temperatures cold, but the Scouts took it all in their stride and loved the outdoor adventure.

They took on board the many lessons for hiking safely, staying hydrated and nourished, and staying warm and dry (well, as dry as possible).

I want to thank Susan Gammon, Sean Wilbraham, Jonathan Web, and Caleb Serafin for playing tag to get the two groups up and off the mountain for their respective hikes. I appreciate all you guys did during a more extreme time of the year for hiking.

David Bosch - Course Leader and Troop Scouter 1st Muizenberg











# upton shield

The Upton Shield, an eagerly anticipated Junior Hiking competition, recently unfolded at the picturesque Helderberg Nature Reserve. On the 7 May 2023, a total of 84 teams each comprising four enthusiastic scouts gathered to showcase their skills and teamwork. Under the guidance of Chief Judge David Knight, assisted by Susan Gammon, the event featured a series of exhilarating tests. Scouts engaged in challenges encompassing first aid, knotting, mapwork, and survival skills.

These tests not only assessed their knowledge but also emphasized the practical application of their training in real-world scenarios. This was demonstrated by a team of scouts assisting a member of the public who required some first aid on the hiking trail.

After a day filled with excitement and determination, the victors emerged. Claiming the top spot with an outstanding performance was 1st Claremont C team, showcasing their exceptional skills and teamwork. A close second was secured by 1st Claremont A, while 1st Bergvliet A claimed an honourable third place.

These teams displayed remarkable resilience and dedication throughout the competition, with 1st Claremont C being a member short at the start of the competition with Frank Whiston from 9th/16th Cape Town stepping in to assist.

With a total of 48 judges overseeing the fair evaluation of the teams' performances, the Upton Shield proved to be a true testament to the spirit of scouting. As the dust settles on this year's event, the participants eagerly await future editions of the Upton Shield, where new adventures and triumphs await them in the great outdoors.

Monét van Antwerpen RTC Scout Programme



The Upton Shield 2023 took place at the Helderberg Nature Reserve in May 2023. As it turned out this was the largest Upton to date with 321 scouts and 45 judges. Fortunately the weather was clear in contrast to the preceding few weekends which were cloudy and often very wet. The scouts assembled at 08h00 and after registration and opening parade the competition was on! The competition was a stiff hike on the Protea circuit

at Helderberg, going high up the mountain, and the hiking was stiff while the bases covered scout skills such as first aid, mapping, pioneering and survival. Because of the large number of scouts and the limited number of judges, bases were closed down according to schedule in order to move judges to other bases. While this means some patrols did not get to complete all bases, it kept the competition moving and rather to the Chief Judges surprise, the competition finished on time.

The competition was won by 1st Claremont (including a member from 9th/16th Cape Town) with another 1st Claremont patrol coming second and 1st Bergvliet third. Thanks go to the judges and the Helderberg Nature Reserve for allowing the competition to take place.

David Knight - Upton Chief Judge



# recycling at hawequas



Lets lessen the amount of waste that is filling landfill sites unnecessarily.

When landfill sites are full to capacity, they are closed and new sites will be far away and the costs of dumping garbage will increase hugely. Why destroy a bigger piece of land when it is not necessary?

Taking less refuse to the tip will mean more resources to be used at Hawequas on more meaningful projects.

Generate a little money for Hawequas! The return on recyclable material is very small, but it is something.

Help to provide a little employment in the recycling industry. A few of the poor will benefit.

It makes no sense to simply throw everything away when there are better environmental options.

Boland waste, where material is taken, accepts:

- Glass
- Metal
- Paper
- Cardboard
- Plastic

These are only some of the materials that are recyclable, but these are the most cost effective to recycle. Others, although recyclable, take too many recourses to be profitable.

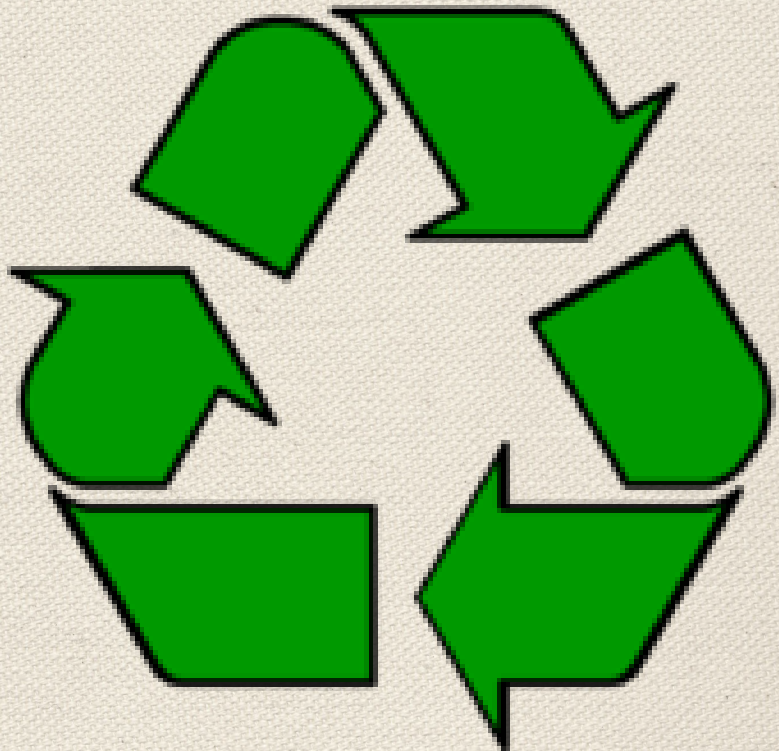
Rinse containers with water. Contaminants, i.e. the remnants of what was inside are not recyclable. Contaminated material is not be paid for.

Remove all tops and let containers dry out inside. Moisture and remains of the contents inside impede recycling.

Put the above recyclable items in the transparent bags that have been provided. They will be sorted and taken to Boland waste.

Recycling is more work than just throwing away, but it has advantages. Should you wish to take recyclable material home, please do so as this will lessen the burden on Hawequas driving to and from the landfill site.

John Wilson





# rover moot 2023

I had the privilege of being part of the South Africa National Rover Moot held at the stunning High Ridge Farm in George, Western Cape. From Thursday, April 27th to Monday, 1st May 2023, around 70 of us rovers, aged 18 to 29, embarked on an unforgettable adventure filled with new friendships, personal growth, and exploration.



Right from the start, it was evident that the organizing team had put in tremendous effort to make this event extraordinary. Excellent catering, the beautiful venue and the perfect balance between group activities and personalized experiences ensured that each rover's expectations were met, and for that, we were truly grateful.

**Day 1:** kicked off with an electric opening ceremony that ignited our excitement for the days ahead. We were encouraged to design unique sub crew flags, and get some spirit going between the sub crews. As the sun set, the campfire came alive with laughter, songs, and skits from different regions and cultures. It was a remarkable way to connect with fellow rovers and foster a sense of belonging within our sub crews.

**Day 2:** presented us with a plethora of exciting activities to choose from. Some ventured into the wilderness on exhilarating hikes, while others revelled in picturesque picnics or engaged in adrenaline-pumping paintball battles. As for me, I opted for a tranquil boat ride, where our guide, the local Akela, told us some fantastic stories about the history of the area and the myriad species of birds before taking us for a real spin on the lagoon. Exploring the unique wilderness cave along the old railway was a one of a kind experience after which I picked some of the



sweetest straw-berries at Red Berry Farm. We concluded the day with a friendly potjie competition, expertly judged by the local George cub pack. Sub-crew 5 emerged victorious due to their dessert bribery, but I must admit, the vegetarian potjie cooked by sub crew 1 was something special.



**Day 3:** brought us an opportunity to give back to the community. Collaborating with the George Food Pantry and local scouting in schools team, we packed food socks and made sandwiches for those in need. It was a humbling experience that reminded us of the power of collective action and the impact we can make. Energized by our act of kindness, we indulged in a spirited game of soccer and delighted in splashing through the waves at the beach. Our evening was filled with an incredible goose chase Amazing Race, organized by local scouting and guiding groups. Driving all over George, we completed challenges, explored the area, and created unforgettable memories. A huge thanks to the organisers - we really appreciate the effort put into making it an incredible race.

**Day 4:** was dedicated to individual pursuits again. While the anticipated kloofing adventure was unfortunately cancelled due to cold weather, the MOC were sure to keep us entertained with various activities. A few brave rovers seized the opportunity to engage in exhilarating activities such as bungee jumping, skydiving, and paragliding. As the sun began to set, the Moot HQ room transformed into a vibrant dance floor, where we grooved to the beats of our favourite hits. The evening was filled with laughter and joy as we shared stories of our adventures. A large campfire provided the perfect space for heartfelt conversations and reflections on the remarkable experiences of the weekend.



The final day was bittersweet, as we packed up our camp and prepared to say our goodbyes. The debrief session provided a valuable opportunity for rovers to reflect on not only the Moot but the future of roving and the important role that South



African youth play in shaping scouting. The South Africa National Rover Moot 2023 united adventure-seekers from across the country, all sharing a passion for scouting and exploration. This exceptional event showcased the spirit of discovery, camaraderie, and the remarkable potential within young individuals to make a meaningful impact.

A huge thanks to the Moot Organising Committee, National Support Team, caterers and all the amazing people involved in making this dream a reality. And a big thanks to all the participant rovers who travelled from far and wide to make this event possible. I am privileged to have been able to take part in such an amazing event and I can't wait for the next one.

Vivienne Banks - 6th Rondebosch Rover Crew



# 25 years on - jamboree history

A chance meeting at the 1st Claremont Scout Hall brought together four Scouts who had been on the South African contingent to the 19th Jamboree in Picaquín, Chile, near Santiago. Michael Bishop, William Bishop, Sahil Patel (APS) and Ian Webb (SGL) were assembled for the Burrow Up Ceremony of Max Bishop to Cubs. Michael and William decided to wear their SA scarves for the occasion, and the connection



was made, 25 years on. What reminiscences there were! At the time, Michael, William and their Mum, Judith (now DS at 1st Claremont) were at 24th Pretoria Sea Scouts, and Sahil was at Surat Hindoo

Scout Group in KZN. The Jamboree was a time to remember!

The SA contingent consisted of 90 boys and men and one woman. The amazing pre-tour took them through five South American countries, visiting wonders of the world such as the Iguazu Falls, the Itaipu Dam, Lake Titicaca and Machu Picchu. Looking back, the four gathered that evening remember playing cricket half way up the

slopes to Machu Picchu, hardly sleeping as they were always on the go by bus (no seat belts) or train, and the sturdy rucksacks they had (Sahil still has his). River rafting was a big success – the photo below shows Frank Liebich (then from 24th Sea Scouts), Gary Pienaar (now our Chief Commissioner), Ian Webb (SGL 1st Claremont), David Castleden (xxx), Warren Kilfoil (then ATS, 1st Bedfordview), Sahil Patel (then ATS at Surat).



Reading the Jamboree Report by Clinton Payne of 1st Durbanville, it comes through very clearly that the Scouts were thrilled at meeting so many GIRLS and were also very proud of their uniforms. Well, they should be – at the Shake-Down Camps held around the country, groups of Moms were recruited to rip off and re-sew badges on with precision. All Sea and Air Scouts had to switch to khaki, which was an added expense for those families, but did make for cohesion and some impressive photos.



The Jamboree was huge – 34 000 Scouts, Scouters etc. Our Scouts had learnt how to do gumboot dancing, which was a great hit, but it was quite something lugging those boots and hats all around South America. There were large contingents from Australia, Britain and Argentina, and South Africa managed to beat them all at rugby and cricket.



Another informal activity was swapping scarves and badges – the Bishops came back with large collections, not to mention the souvenirs collected along the way in South America.

Meanwhile, back in South Africa, the local Packs and Troops could engage in a Join-in-Jamboree.

The Chilean Organisers had sent out a pack of very interesting activities. 24th Sea Scouts and nearby groups had a Jamboree Event where we played an ancient version of Inca hockey with sticks, organized chariot races and had a large sheep braai.



The photos tell it all. It is the chance of a life-time. And the tradition goes on – Ian's son James and two of Sunil's nephews will be going to the Jamboree this year. We wish all the Scouts going to South Korea all the best, and to Be Prepared for an amazing experience.

Judith Bishop - Den Scouter 1st Claremont



# patrol camp



It was cloudy, dim and overcast on Friday the 16th of June when we arrived at Hawequas Scout Adventure Centre. We were expecting rain at any moment, so we busied ourselves with building our camp site. We had two tents, one gazebo, a patrol box and a table that we needed to get up. The six of us made good work of it and got them all up before the rain. We knew our tents would turn into a river if we did not dig trenches around the tents, so we did.

After we had finished the trenches we wanted to make dinner, and so we got out the gas cookers and started cooking our mince with onions and boiling the veggies. After a little while the flame under the pot started to get smaller and smaller then went out. We had run out of gas! We had finished cooking the mince but alas the veggies were still quite hard.

We woke up on the second day to very wet, very leaky tents and so we moved into the afdak at the bathrooms still under construction. We had planned to go onto the mountainside to clear invasive trees but it rained all day non-stop and so it was too wet to go out onto the mountain. We spent all day under that roof playing different card games. For supper we had planned to cook spaghetti, but cooking it on gas was out of the question. Us being the innovative scouts we are, we took our pot full of dry uncooked spaghetti to the bathrooms where there was hot water in the showers and spent about an hour filling the pot with hot water from the shower, letting it sit and cook in the water, then draining it and repeat. We did not cook it much but it was edible. We also had the shower spaghetti in rolls the next day.



On day three we were able to do just over two hours of service - clearing branches and alien trees in the over-grown campsites. We helped Kuba get some fire wood, we held a Scout's Own and then we departed six much happier scouts.

Daniel Lugt - Scout 1st Pinelands



# 1st rocklands cubs in action



1st Rocklands Group in Mitchells Plain took part in a community winter soup drive on the 16 June 2023 as part of a Youth Day project. Parents donated ingredients and we were able to make a 20 litre pot of soup. We received donations of bread and veggies as well.

In May one of our cubs, Tyrize, enjoyed the Senior Cub Camp run at Hawequas. Tyrize took part in a challenge where they had to eat insects, but the trick was it was all fake.



But lot of fun, as well as the climbing wall was such a challenge.

Congratulations to Nahum Jeremiah of the 1st Rocklands Group Achieved on achieving his leaping wolf.

The 1st Rocklands Group enjoyed their time at the Cub Fun Day. For many of our cubs it was their first time attending. One of our cubs was photographed testing her sense of smell at the fresh herbs table. Out of the 1ST Rocklands Akela's Garden.

Annsley Spies - Pack Scouter 1st Rocklands





# 4th claremont update

The newest Troop in the Liesbeek district has gone from strength to strength since celebrating its 1st Birthday in October 2022.



The Troop has been functioning for just over two terms now, and already has four patrols. Four of our Scouts competed in the recent Rayner trophy and we attended the Upton Shield, with four patrols of junior Scouts taking part. Rayner prep included a scorching-hot training hike to

the Hut on Table Mountain via Kasteelspoort and down via Nursery Ravine, continuing through to the Hall in Fernwood.

Many of the Scouts have taken part in the Fires and Cooking and Pioneering Scoutcraft badge courses, as well as taking part in the troop-organised Swimmer and Swimming badge day at Long Street baths.

A Survival camp in the early part of the year at the Glencairn Robert's Camp, organised by the PLs, tested the Scouts' new skills, and set the bar high for future events. In mid-June, the Scout Hut was a definite hit with the



patrols walking up to start what will hopefully become an annual Winter Hike tradition. Our Pack has grown exponentially and now has a new Akela, Elton Le Roux, having taken on the reins from Barry Staak, while the Meerkat Den is also doing well under Rian Geldenhuys. More from them in time to come!

Peter Otzen - Scout Group Leader 4th Claremont





# champions for nature 2023



The Champions for Nature Challenge takes young people on a journey to discover and recognise the importance of biodiversity for all living beings.

It helps young people to connect with nature while engaging in activities to protect and improve our relationship with the natural world.

Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts and Rovers each have their own set of requirements to meet the challenge.

See [www.scouts.org.za/members/better-world-framework/champions-for-nature-2023/](http://www.scouts.org.za/members/better-world-framework/champions-for-nature-2023/) for more information

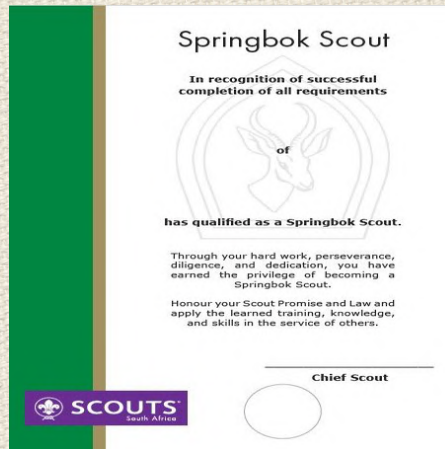


# springbok scouts

We congratulate our latest Springbok Scouts who are:



Ronan Whittaker  
1st Bothasig



Luke Foord  
1st Claremont



## regional contact list

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